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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/782,373	02/18/2004	Jesse L. Beauchamp	1950-0024	3556
23980	7590	12/22/2006	EXAMINER	
MINTZ, LEVIN, COHN, FERRIS, GLOVSKY AND POPEO, P.C. 1400 PAGE MILL ROAD PALO ALTO, CA 94304-1124			COVINGTON, RAYMOND K	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		1625		
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE		
3 MONTHS	12/22/2006	PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

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Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/782,373	BEAUCHAMP ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Raymond Covington	1625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 October 2006.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-33 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____.

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Amine containing compounds, crown ether, pages 5-6 [0021] acidic groups, page 6 [0025] transition binding groups, page 7 [0029] and diazo groups, page 6 [0023] are all indefinite. Further, it cannot be determined how acidic the acidic groups are. There is, for example, no indication as to how the level of acidity is measured.

Applicants' comments have been noted and considered but are not deemed persuasive of patentability. While the term "amine group" may be known in the art, "amine-containing compounds" is not. Likewise, claims do not recite the crown ether contemplated by applicants, e.g. "those cyclic ethers having four or more oxygen atoms". The same applies to the other rejected phrases. The recited terms are functional and do not bring to mind a particular structure. What is important is whether the term is one that is understood to describe structure, as opposed to a term that is simply a nonce phrase or a verbal construct that is not

recognized as the name of structure and is simply a substitute for the term "means for." In *Mas-Hamilton Group v. LaGard, Inc.*, 48 USPQ2d 1010

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 1-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the specification, while being enabling for using benzoic acid, ethylenediamine, propylenediamine, butanediamine, hexamethylenediamine, NyN-dimethylethylenediamine, diethylenetriamine, dipropylenetriamine, triethylenetetramine, tetramethylethylenediamine, N,N-dimethylpropylenediamine, N,N,N'- trimethylethylenediamine, N,N,N',Nd-tetramethyl-1,3-proprediamine, hexamethylenetetramine, diazabicyclononane, sparteine, phenantroline, 2,2'-bipyridine and neocuproine transition metal binding groups, diazo groups and compounds 1-5, does not reasonably provide enablement for using all eight radicals listed in claim 4. The specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make or use the invention commensurate in scope with these claims. There is insufficient disclosure of starting materials that would place such a diverse genus of

compounds in possession of the public in the event of a patent grant. In addition, there is no reasonable assurance that such an alleged genus of compounds would possess all of the alleged properties for use. See *In re Fouche* 169 USPQ 429 ((CCPA 1971)). Quite clearly, more than routine experimentation would be required to place the claimed compounds, compositions and methods of use in possession of the public in the event of a patent grant. See *In re Armbruster*, 185 USPQ 152 (CCPA 1975).

Applicants' comments have been noted and considered but are not deemed persuasive of patentability. The claims as presently recited read on processes involving a vast range of compounds, e.g. all amine-containing compounds. The limited disclosure and exemplification, noted in the previous office action, does not enable this vast scope. There is no predictability between, for example NH₂ and methylamine-crown ether. To determine which of, for example, all known acidic groups would work in the claimed process would require undue experimentation.

Claims 1-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter that was not described in the specification in such a way to convey reasonably to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The issue

concerning the meaning of phrases “amine containing compounds, crown ether, acidic groups, transition binding groups and diazo groups are discussed above.”

Claims 1-33 do not contain a complete generic formula.

According to the MPEP §2163 I. A. “the issue of a lack of adequate written description may arise even for an original claim when an aspect of the claimed invention has not been described with sufficient particularity such that one skilled in the art would recognize that the applicant had possession of the claimed invention. The claimed invention as a whole may not be adequately described if the claims require an essential or critical feature which is not adequately described in the specification and which is not conventional in the art or known to one of ordinary skill in the art.” The MPEP states in §2163 II 3 ii) “The written description requirement for a claimed genus may be satisfied through sufficient description of a representative number of species by actual reduction to practice (see i)(A), above), reduction to drawings (see i)(B), above), or by disclosure of relevant, identifying characteristics, i.e., structure or other physical and/or chemical properties, by functional characteristics coupled with a known or disclosed correlation between function and structure, or by a combination of such identifying characteristics, sufficient to show the applicant was in possession of the

claimed genus (see i)(C), above). See *Eli Lilly*, 119 F.3d at 1568, 43 USPQ2d at 1406."

The Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held in *University of California v. Eli Lilly and Co.* 43 USPQ2d 1398 at 1406. "[a] written description of an invention involving a chemical genus, like a description of a chemical species, "requires a precise definition, such as by structure, formula, [or] chemical name, "of the claimed subject matter sufficient to distinguish it from other materials. *In re Smythe*, 480 F.2d 1376, 1383, *Fiers*, 984 F.2d at 1171, 25 USPQ2d at 1606; *In re Smythe*, 480 F.2d 1376, 1383, 178 USPQ 279, 284-85 (CCPA 1973) ("In other cases, particularly but not necessarily, chemical cases, where there is unpredictability in performance of certain species or subcombinations other than those specifically enumerated, one skilled in the art may be found not to have been placed in possession of a genus. . . .")." Applicants' functional definitions in the claimed formula simply lack the precision required by the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.

As discussed above the phrase "amine containing compounds, crown ether, acidic groups, transition binding groups and diazo groups are discussed above." is not art recognized in organic chemistry. According to the MPEP §2163.02 Standard for Determining Compliance With the Written Description Requirement,

"The courts have described the essential question to be addressed in a description requirement issue in a variety of ways. An objective standard for determining compliance with the written description requirement is, "does the description clearly allow persons of ordinary skill in the art to recognize that he or she invented what is claimed". *In re Gosteli*, 872 F.2d 1008, 1012, 10 USPQ2d 1614, 1618 (Fed. Cir. 1989). Under *Vas-Cath, Inc. v. Mahurkar*, 935 F.2d 1555, 1563-64, 19 USPQ2d 1111, 1117 (Fed. Cir. 1991), to satisfy the written description requirement, an applicant must convey with reasonable clarity to those skilled in the art that, as of the filing date sought, he or she was in possession of the invention, and that the invention, in that context, is whatever is now claimed. The test for sufficiency of support in a parent application is whether the disclosure of the application relied upon "reasonably conveys to the artisan that the inventor had possession at that time of the later claimed subject matter". *Ralston Purina Co. v. Far-Mar-Co., Inc.*, 772 F.2d 1570, 1575, 227 USPQ 177, 179 (Fed. Cir. 1985) (quoting *In re Kaslow*, 707 F.2d 1366, 1375, 217 USPQ 1089, 1096 (Fed. Cir. 1983))."

Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art, who would use Applicants' compounds, would not know what "Amine containing compounds, crown ether, acidic groups, transition binding groups and diazo groups". That one of ordinary skill would not have understood the inventor to be in possession of the claimed invention"at the time of filing.

Applicants' comments have been noted and considered but are not deemed persuasive of patentability. There is no evidence that terms "Amine containing compounds, crown ether, acidic groups, transition binding groups and diazo groups" had well-defined meaning to one of ordinary skill in art.

if a disputed term has "no previous meaning to those of ordinary skill in the prior art[,] its meaning, then, must be found [elsewhere] in the patent." *J.T. Eaton & Co. v. Atl. Paste & Glue Co.*, 106 F.3d 1563, 1570 41 USPQ2d 1641 (Fed. Cir. 1997).

"where evidence such as expert testimony or technical dictionaries demonstrates that artisans would attach a special meaning to a claim term or would attach no meaning at all to the claim term independent of the specification "general-usage dictionaries are

rendered irrelevant with respect to that term ..." *Vanderlande Indus. Nederland BV v. Int'l Trade Comm'n*, 366 F.3d 1311, 1321 [70 USPQ2d 1696] (Fed. Cir. 2004). "[A] general-usage dictionary cannot overcome credible art-specific evidence of the meaning or lack of meaning of a claim term." *Id.* (citation omitted).," *Irdet Access Inc. v. Echostar Satellite Corp.*, 72 USPQ2d 1678.

The terms do not bring to mind a particular structure. It is important whether the term is one that is understood to describe structure, as opposed to a term that is simply a nonce phrase or a verbal construct that is not recognized as the name of structure and is simply a substitute for the term "means for." In *Mass-Hamilton Group v. LaGard, Inc.*, 48 USPQ2d 1010 *Lighting World Inc. v. Birchwood Lighting Inc.*, 72 USPQ2d 1344 at 1351.

According to MPEP §2106.02, "it must be emphasized that arguments of counsel alone cannot take the place of evidence in the record once an examiner has advanced a reasonable basis for questioning the disclosure. See *In re Budnick*, 537 F.2d at 538, 190 USPQ at 424; *In re Schulze*, 346 F.2d 600, 145 USPQ 716 (CCPA 1965); *In re Cole*, 326 F.2d 769, 140 USPQ 230 (CCPA 1964). For example, in a case where the record consisted substantially of arguments and opinions of applicant's attorney, the court indicated that **factual affidavits** could have provided important evidence on the issue of enablement. See *In re Knowlton*, 500 F.2d at 572, 183 USPQ at 37; *In re Wiseman*, 596 F.2d 1019, 201 USPQ 658 (CCPA 1979)."

No claim is allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Raymond Covington whose telephone number is (571) 272-0681. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas McKenzie at telephone number (571) 272-0681.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


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